

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LOUREN 00256 071019Z

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ACTION PM-03

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R 070930Z MAR 75

FM AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

TO AMEMBASSY LISBON

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 3322

AMCONSUL LUANDA

C O N F I D E N T I A L LOURENCO MARQUES 256

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MILI, PFOR, PO, AO, MZ

SUBJECT: CLEARANCE PROCEDURES FOR SHIP VISITS, AIRPLANE
OVERFLIGHTS

REF: (A) LISBON 1142; (B) LOURENCO MARQUES 194

1. AS MUCH AS WE WOULD LIKE TO, WE DOUBT IT WOULD BE FEASIBLE TO ELIMATE PORTUGUESE AUTHORITIES IN LISBON FROM THE CLEARANCE PROCESS FOR SHIP VISITS TO MOZAMBIQUE PRIOR TO INDEPENDENCE. WE WOULD HAVE TO PRESENT REQUEST FOR SHIP CLEARANCE TO HIGH COMMISSIONER CRESPO, WHO IN TURN WOULD ALMOST CERTAINLY HAVE TO REFER MATTER TO BOTH MOZAMBIQUE TRANSITIONAL GOVERNMENT AND TO LISBON. WHILE IT MIGHT BE POSSIBLE FOR US TO WORK DIRECTLY WITH HIGH COMMISSIONER WITHOUT EMBASSY LISBON'S INVOLVEMENT, WE ARE NOT SURE THIS WOULD FACILITATE PROCEDURE. IN OUR OPINION, BEST PLACE TO DETERMINE THIS QUESTION IS IN LISBON.

2. PRIOR TO DISCUSSION WITH GOP ON SHIP CLEARANCE PROCEDURES, HOWEVER, BELIEVE IT ESSENTIAL TO CLEAR UP FACTS SURROUNDING CLEARANCE REQUEST FOR HEWES-TRIPPE VISIT TO LOURENCO MARQUES. WE DO NOT HAVE COMPLETE CONFIDENCE IN HIGH COMMISSIONER'S ASSERTION THAT CHISSANO REVERSED HIMSELF ON CLEARANCE FOR THIS VISIT AND THAT IT WAS TOO LATE TO MAKE NECESSARY ARRANGEMENTS IN LISBON. AS INDICATED REF B, THEREFORE, WE SUGGEST AMEMBASSY LISBON AND/OR USDAO CHECK WITH PORTUGUESE AUTHORITIES IN LISBON TO SEE WHETHER THERE IS ANY RECORD
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PAGE 02 LOUREN 00256 071019Z

THERE OF MTG REVERSING ITSELF. MOREOVER, EVEN IF MTG DID

REVERSE ITSELF ON ITS CLEARANCE FOR HEWES-TRIPPE VISIT UNDER PRESSURE FROM HIGH COMMISSIONER, THIS DOES NOT NECESSARILY MEAN CLEARANCES WILL BE FORTHCOMING PRIOR TO INDEPENDENCE. NOW THAT WE HAVE BEEN ADVISED THAT SHIP VISITS WOULD CAUSE UNDESIRABLE "POLITICAL SPECULATION", MTG WILL PROBABLY NO LONGER GIVE WEIGHT TO ARGUMENTS WE AND GOP PRESENTED FOR HEWES-TRIPPE VISIT.

3. AS FOR AIRPLANE OVERFLIGHTS, WE OBTAINED CLEARANCE EASILY FROM MTG CIVIL AIR AUTHORITIES FOR AIR FORCE PLANE CONTEMPLATED FOR CODEL DIGGS VISIT TO MOZAMBIQUE AND PROBABLY CAN CONTINUE TO DO SO IN FUTURE. IN CONTRAST WITH SHIPS, NORMAL AIRPLANE OVERFLIGHTS HANDLED AT LOW GOVERNMENT LEVEL AND LACK POLITICAL VISIBILITY.
WALKER

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